

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PULSED CABLE TELEPHONY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cable receiver system and method which utilizes the combination of time-division multiplexing ("TDM") and a fast-acquisition-time tuner to enable on/off pulsing of the tuner, thereby resulting in substantially reduced power consumption by the tuner. The tuner may be pulsed on during the allocated time slot to receive the allocated portion of the signal, and then pulsed off the remainder of the time. The tuner generally requires a fast signal acquisition time compared to the received signal's frame rate so that the tuner does not use up an excess amount of the frame outside of the proper time slot when locking in the received signal. The TDM technique permits more efficient use of the high bandwidth network by multiplexing the relatively low bandwidth voice signals. In addition, the implementation of a fast-acquisition-time tuner in the NIU of a cable system permits the tuner to be pulsed off for a substantial amount of the time between the allocated time slots. Finally, the pulsing of the tuner substantially reduces power consumption by the receiver in an NIU, thus economically enabling the use of a telephony cable system that can operate during a power outage.

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